

Claims

1. Method for forming a moulding from a flat sheet (1) of plastic material, comprising the following steps:

- 5 - mounting the sheet (1) in and/or on a frame (2) that extends along at least part of the edges (4) of the sheet (1),
 - temporarily fixing the sheet (1) to the frame (2) by means of at least one clamp (3) that engages on the sheet (1),
 - placing the sheet (1) with frame (2) in a press,
10 - heating the sheet (1),
 - deforming the sheet (1) in the heated state by activating the press,
 - making the clamp (3) move relative to the sheet (1) during pressing.

2. Method according to Claim 1, wherein the clamp (3) interacts with the sheet (1) by
15 means of friction.

3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the clamp (3) is hooked in place on the frame (2).

20 4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the plastic material comprises a fibre-reinforced thermoplastic.

5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the clamp (3) is exposed to the same conditions, such as pressure and temperature, to which the flat sheet
25 (1) is subjected.

6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein, after forming a first moulding, the clamp (3) is also used for then forming a second moulding.

30 7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the thickness of the flat sheet (1) is between 0.1 and 1.0 mm.

8. In combination, a frame (2) for use with the method according to one of the

preceding claims for forming a moulding from a sheet (1), as well as a clamp (3) for fixing a sheet (1) to be formed to a frame (2).

5 9. Combination according to Claim 8, comprising at least two clamps (3) for fixing a sheet (1) to be formed to two opposing edges of the frame (2).

10 10. Combination according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein at least one clamp (3) is welded to the frame (2).

11. Combination according to Claim 8, 9 or 10, wherein at least one clamp (3) is clamped on the frame (2).

12. Clamp (3) for use with the combination according to Claim 8, 9 or 10 in connection with carrying out the method according to one of Claims 1 - 7, comprising two jaws (5, 6), one jaw (5) of which can engage on a sheet (1) and the other jaw (6) of which can engage on the frame (2).

13. Clamp (3) according to Claim 12, wherein the jaw (5) that can engage on the sheet (1) has a gripping surface (7) that is shaped correspondingly to the part of the surface with which said jaw (5) is in contact.

14. Clamp (3) according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the jaw (5) that can engage on the sheet (1) is able to interact with the sheet (1) by means of friction in such a way that when a specific sheer force is exceeded the sheet (1) can move relative to the frame (2) and/or the clamp (3).

15. Clamp (3) according to one of Claims 12 - 14, wherein the jaw (6) that can engage on the frame (2) is able to interact with the frame (2) by means of shapes that engage in one another.

16. Clamp (3) according to Claim 15, wherein the jaw (6) that can engage on the frame (2) has a hook shape (8), such that said jaw (6) can be hooked behind an edge or ridge of the frame (2).

17. Clamp (3) according to one of Claims 12 - 16, wherein the jaws (5, 6) are joined via an intermediate piece (9), so forming an "S" shape.

5 18. Clamp (3) according to one of Claims 12 - 17, comprising a sheet metal such as aluminium.

19. Clamp (3) according to one of Claims 12 - 19, wherein the clamp (3) is re-usable.

10 20. Clamp according to one of Claims 12 - 19, wherein the clamp consists of steel, such as stainless steel.